

2010 Community Health Survey Results



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The mission of the Bethlehem Health Bureau is to achieve a greater quality of life in the City of Bethlehem by protecting and promoting optimal health and well being.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The purpose of this project was to assess the major health concerns in the City of Bethlehem and the behaviors and factors that have the greatest impact on overall community health. In order to be responsive to the needs of our citizens, the Bethlehem Health Bureau will utilize the results from the survey to establish health priorities and improve the services that we provide to the community.

This assessment was conducted as part of the Bethlehem Health Bureau's quality improvement and accreditation preparation activities. The one-page anonymous survey tool consisted of three questions and a demographic section. The survey questions were as follows: (1) Please choose the top five health, environmental, and social issues that you think the Bethlehem Health Bureau should focus on; (2) Please choose the three behaviors that you believe have the greatest impact on overall community health in the City of Bethlehem; and (3) Please choose the three factors that have the greatest impact on overall community health in the City of Bethlehem.

The survey instrument was pilot-tested and revised accordingly prior to being implemented. The Health Bureau collaborated with Lehigh University, Moravian College, and several other organizations to collect data from City of Bethlehem residents in February 2010. Before administering the survey, respondents were asked if they would like to participate in a health needs survey. All respondents included in this assessment were voluntary participants over the age of 18. Data was collected online, door-to-door, at community organizations and local businesses throughout the entire City. The data collected provides an accurate reflection of the demographics of the City's residents.

A total of 1,007 surveys were collected and a total of 139 were disqualified because they were either incomplete or a non-City of Bethlehem resident. A total of 868 surveys are included in the data analysis, which equates to a margin of error of 4% and a confidence interval of 99%. Data was entered into Zoomerang, an online survey tool and then exported into Microsoft Excel for further analysis. Once the data was analyzed, Health Bureau staff collected secondary data to substantiate the findings of the health issues that ranked highest.

In the upcoming year, the health issues highlighted in this report will be reviewed, prioritized, developed into goal statements and incorporated into a new strategic plan through a collaborative process with our community partners.

MAJOR FINDINGS

❖ **Child Abuse**

Child abuse ranked as the number one issue that the Health Bureau should focus on with 27% (234) of respondents selecting the issue. According to the CDC, over 3 million reports of child abuse are made every year in the United States. In 2007, 1,760 children ages 0 to 17 died from abuse and neglect in the U.S. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare, there were almost 790 reported cases of child abuse in Lehigh County and over 760 cases in Northampton County in 2008. These disturbing figures are a portion of the over 25,000 reported cases statewide. Abused children are more likely to experience teen pregnancy, less likely to practice unsafe sex, and more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.

❖ **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence ranked as the number two issue that the Health Bureau should focus on with 22% (192) of survey respondents selecting the issue. According to data provided by the City of Bethlehem Police Department, a total of 2,344 calls that came into the City of Bethlehem 911 Center in 2009 were domestic violence calls which represented 3.6% of all dispatched calls. According to data obtained by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, 154 PFA's (protection from abuse) were granted in Lehigh County and 139 in Northampton County in 2008.

❖ **Health Services for the Homeless**

Health services for the homeless ranked as the third issue that the Health Bureau should focus on with 22% (188) of survey respondents selecting the issue. According to the Lehigh Valley Coalition on Affordable Housing, a point in time survey conducted in January 2009 indicated that 77% of the homeless population in a 12-county area were from Lehigh and Northampton Counties. The study further concluded that 22% of the homeless individuals were fleeing domestic violence and 28% of the individuals accessing homeless shelters reported substance abuse problems. Poor health can contribute to being homeless, and being homeless can lead to poor health which is why the health of homeless people in the United States is worse than that of the general population. According to the National Institutes of Health, common health problems in the homeless population include: mental health problems, substance abuse problems, bronchitis, pneumonia, problems associated with living outdoors, and wound and skin infections.

❖ **Overweight/Obesity**

Survey participants ranked overweight and obesity as the fourth most important issue for the Health Bureau to focus on with 21% (185) of respondents selecting the issue. Data from the 2005-07 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey indicates that 66% of Northampton, Lehigh, and Carbon County adults are overweight and obese, which is higher than both the state and national average. The 2009 County Health Rankings for Lehigh and Northampton County show that 26% and 30% of adults are obese, respectively. This is higher than the state average. Local data for childhood overweight and obesity is currently pending since mandatory screenings for all grade levels are now implemented and documented.

❖ **Teenage Pregnancy**

Teenage pregnancy ranked as the fifth most important issue for the Health Bureau to focus on with 21% (184) of survey respondents selecting the issue. Teen birth data was obtained from the National Vital Statistics System for 2000-2006. The teen birth rate (ages 15-19) for Northampton County was 24 births per 1,000 female population and 37 births per 1,000 female population for Lehigh County. The teenage birth rates for both counties are above the national target of 17 per 1,000 female population.

❖ **Cancer**

Cancer was the tied as the fifth most important issue for the Health Bureau to focus on with 21% (184) of survey respondents selecting the issue. According to the Pennsylvania Cancer Incidence and Mortality 2006 document, Northampton County lung cancer mortality and incidence rates for both males and females are higher than state and national rates. In addition, pancreatic incidence and mortality rates for males and breast cancer mortality rates for females are higher locally than state and national rates.

❖ **Air Quality**

Air Quality ranked as the seventh most important issue for the Health Bureau to focus on with 21% (180) of the survey respondents selecting the issue. According to the 2009 State of the Air Report, both Lehigh and Northampton Counties received an “F” for ozone levels during 2009. These levels were determined by the number and severity of Ozone Action Days. Fifty percent of the residents in both Lehigh and Northampton Counties were considered to be at risk population of poor air quality. In addition, 22% in Northampton County and 10% in Lehigh County have pediatric asthma.

❖ **Child Well-Being**

Child Well-Being ranked as the eighth most important issue for the Health Bureau to focus on with 20% (174) of survey respondents selecting the issue. Uninsured rates for children collected in 2005 indicate that 12% of children are uninsured in Northampton County and 11.6% in Lehigh County. Thirty percent of Bethlehem Area School District students are at 200% of the poverty level. Low birth weight data indicates that in 2006, 8.6% of babies born were low birth weight in Northampton County and 9.2% in Lehigh County. When extrapolating the Hispanic population, 11.7% were low birth weight in Northampton County and 10.3% in Lehigh County.

❖ **Substance Abuse**

Substance Abuse ranked as the ninth most important issue for the Health Bureau to focus on with 19% (169) of survey respondents selecting the issue. Estimates from both Northampton and Lehigh County Single County Authorities indicate that the prevalence rate for substance abuse for those 12 and older is 7.7% (19,264 individuals in Northampton County and 22,124 individuals in Lehigh County). A total of 686 individuals in Northampton County and 720 individuals in Lehigh County were arrested for drug possession in 2008. A total of 2,832 individuals in Northampton County and 2,366 in Lehigh County were arrested for driving under the influence in 2008.

❖ **Access to Healthcare**

Access to healthcare ranked as the tenth most important issue for the Health Bureau to focus on with 18% (152) of survey respondents selecting the issue. Data from the Pennsylvania Department of Health indicate that 12% of individuals in the Northampton, Carbon, and Lehigh Counties are uninsured. This is similar to both state and national averages.

SURVEY LOCATIONS

Survey Locations
Door-to-Door throughout the City
Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations
New Bethany Ministries
Westgate Mall
Bethlehem Housing Authority
YMCA
Northeast Ministries
Victory House
Bethlehem Public Library-Main
Bethlehem Public Library-Southside
Hogar Crea's Women's
Ritters Pharmacy
Northampton Community College-Southside Campus
Moravian College
Lehigh University
Trinity Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church
New Covenant Christian Community
Christ Lutheran Church
Restaurants throughout the City
Trinity Episcopal Church
Church of the Nativity
St. Simon and Jude
Holy Infancy
Moravian Village
Lehigh Valley Childcare (5 th Street)
Lehigh Kidz Academy
Linden Tree Laundry
Lighthouse Wash Basket Laundromat
University Laundromat
Just Born
Community Services for Children
Moravian House
Union Station
Bethlehem Area School District Family Center Staff
Bethlehem Area School District Nurses
Block Watch Groups
Southside Task Force
Moravian Independent Living

SURVEY RESULTS

Please choose the top five health, environmental, and social issues that you think the Bethlehem Health Bureau should focus on.		
Child Abuse	234	27%
Domestic Violence	192	22%
Health Services for the Homeless	188	22%
Overweight/Obesity	185	21%
Cancers	184	21%
Teenage Pregnancy	184	21%
Air Quality	180	21%
Child Well Being	174	20%
Substance Abuse	169	19%
Access to Health Services	152	18%
Diabetes	151	17%
Mental Health	145	17%
Senior Health	143	16%
Hunger	129	15%
Environmental/Sustainable Development	121	14%
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	119	14%
Garbage/Trash Not Properly Disposed Of	118	14%
Food Safety/Consumer Protection	111	13%
Heart Disease and Stroke	103	12%
Stress	102	12%
HIV/AIDS	96	11%
Infectious Diseases	93	11%
Dental	91	10%
High Blood Pressure	83	10%
Rape/Sexual Assault	83	10%
Tobacco Use	80	9%
Arthritis	79	9%
Homicide	64	7%
Bioterrorist Threats/Disasters	63	7%
Disabilities and Secondary Conditions	58	7%
Motor Vehicle Injuries	53	6%
Environmental Nuisance Complaints	49	6%
Respiratory Diseases	48	6%
Occupation Safety and Health	46	5%
Fire Arm Related Injuries	44	5%
Suicide	41	5%
Infant Death	37	4%
Hearing, Vision, and Sensory Disorders	32	4%
Other	32	4%
Radon	27	3%
Lyme Disease	21	2%

Please choose the three behaviors that you believe have the greatest impact on overall community health in the City of Bethlehem		
Drug abuse	545	63%
Alcohol abuse	399	46%
Violence	338	39%
Poor eating habits	225	26%
Lack of exercise	218	25%
Tobacco use	171	20%
Unsafe/unprotected sex (lack of condom use)	159	18%
Not using birth control	145	17%
lack of using a family doctor	142	16%
Not getting “shots” to prevent disease	106	12%
Not using seatbelts/child safety seats/helmets	92	11%
Lack of safety equipment use	27	3%
Other	20	2%

Please choose the three factor that you believe have the greatest impact on overall community health in the City of Bethlehem		
Good Schools	285	33%
Affordable Housing	280	32%
Low crime/safe neighborhoods	276	32%
Employment status	241	28%
Clean environment	223	26%
Healthy behaviors and lifestyle	201	23%
Access to healthcare	200	23%
Homelessness	160	18%
Education level	157	18%
Income level	127	15%
Social support	111	13%
Religious or spiritual values	109	13%
Parks and recreation	103	12%
Life skills	68	8%
Culture	60	7%
Other	6	1%

Age Breakdown of Survey Respondents		
Under 18	14	2%
18-24	155	18%
25-34	137	16%
35-44	125	14%
45-54	138	16%
55-64	135	16%
Over 65	157	18%
Blank	7	.8%
Total	868	100%

Race Breakdown of Survey Respondents		
White	626	72%
Black	48	6%
Asian	21	2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	5	.5%
Native American or Other Pacific Islander	6	.6%
Other, please specify	107	12%
Blank	55	6%
Total	868	100%

Gender Breakdown of Survey Participants		
Male	355	41%
Female	495	57%
Blank	18	2%
Total	868	100%

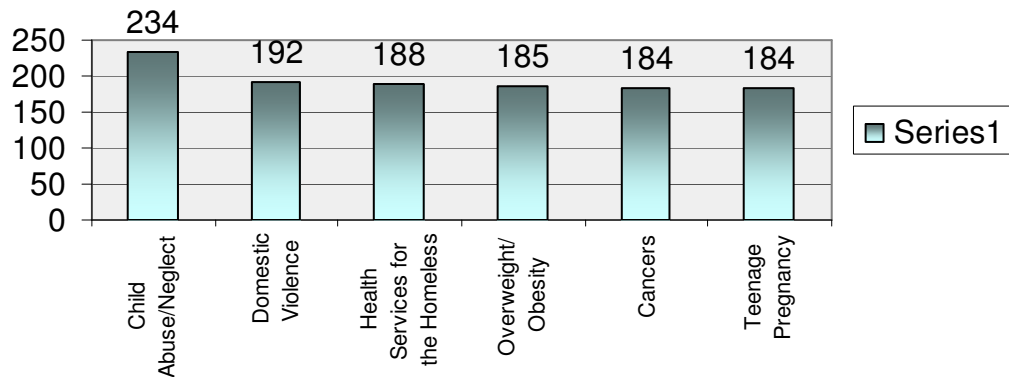
Ethnicity Breakdown of Survey Participants		
Hispanic	252	29%
Non-Hispanic	536	62%
Blank	80	9%
Total	868	100%

Education Level of Survey Participants		
Less than high school	86	10%
High school or GED	278	32%
1-3 years of college	233	27%
4 years of college	134	15%
Graduate degree or higher	112	13%
Blank	25	3%
Total	868	100%

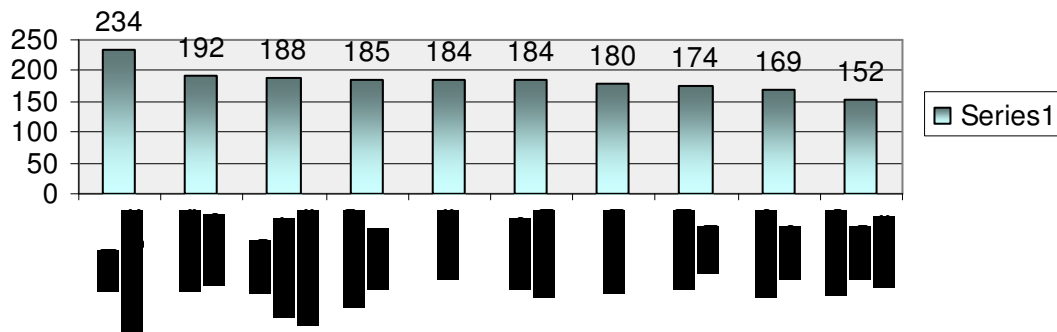
Household Income Level of Survey Participants		
Low Income	286	33%
Middle Income	490	56%
High Income	57	7%
Blank	35	4%
Total	868	100%

Have you ever accessed services from the Bethlehem Health Bureau?		
Yes	282	32%
No	577	66%
Blank	9	1%
Total	868	100%

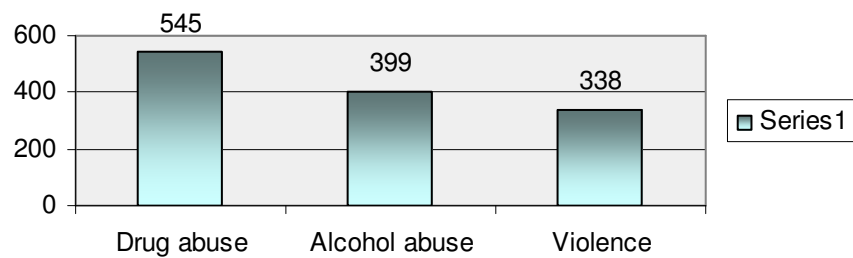
Top Five Issues That the Bethlehem Health Bureau Should Focus On



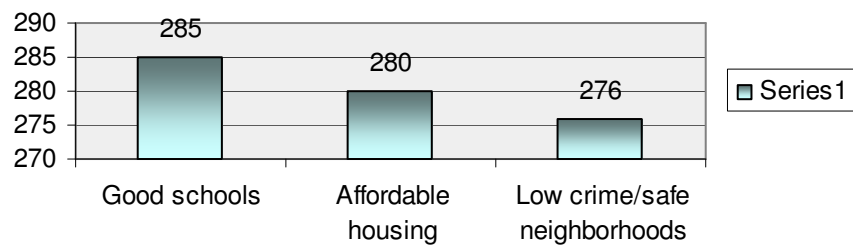
Top Ten Issues That the Bethlehem Health Bureau Should Focus On



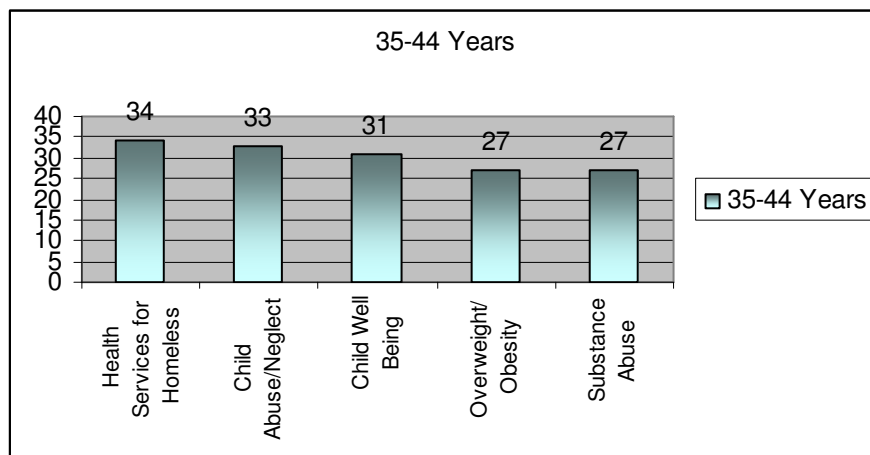
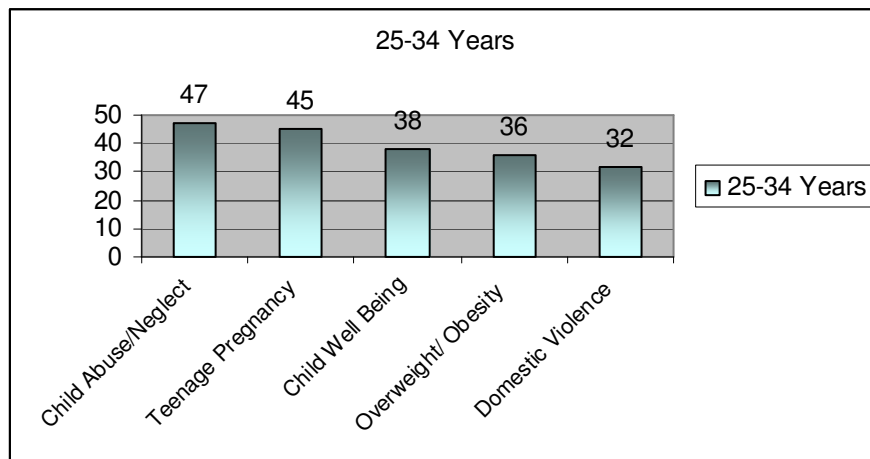
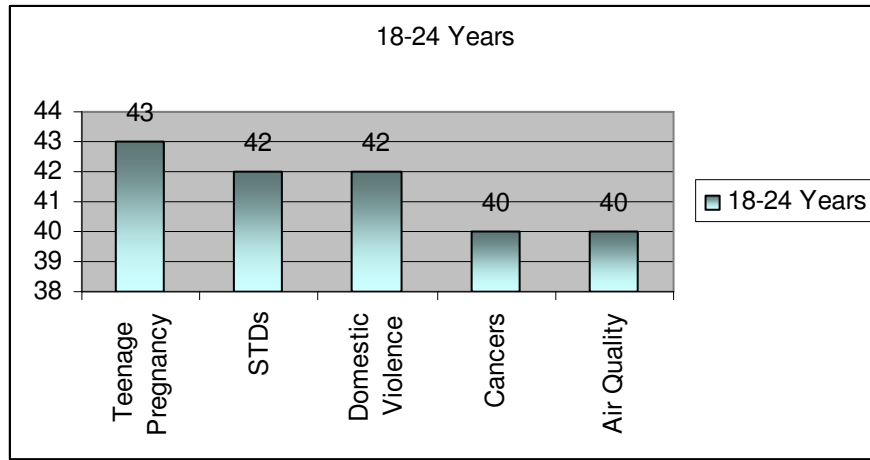
Top Three Behaviors That Have the Greatest Impact on Community Health in the City of Bethlehem

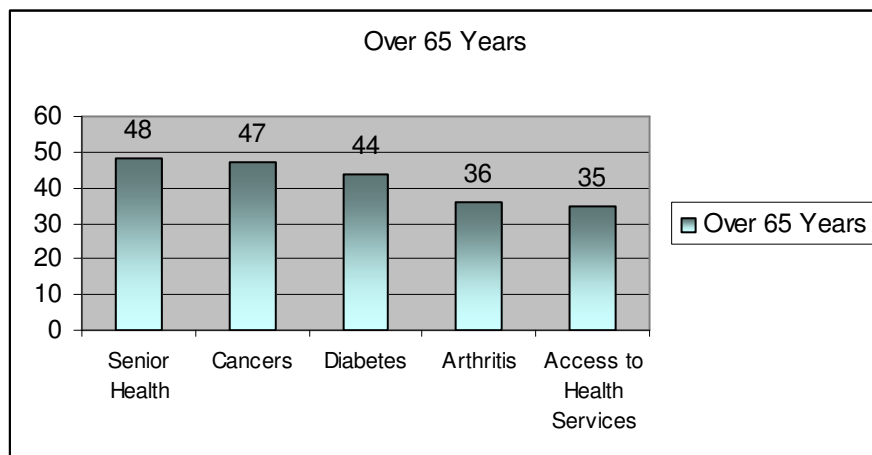
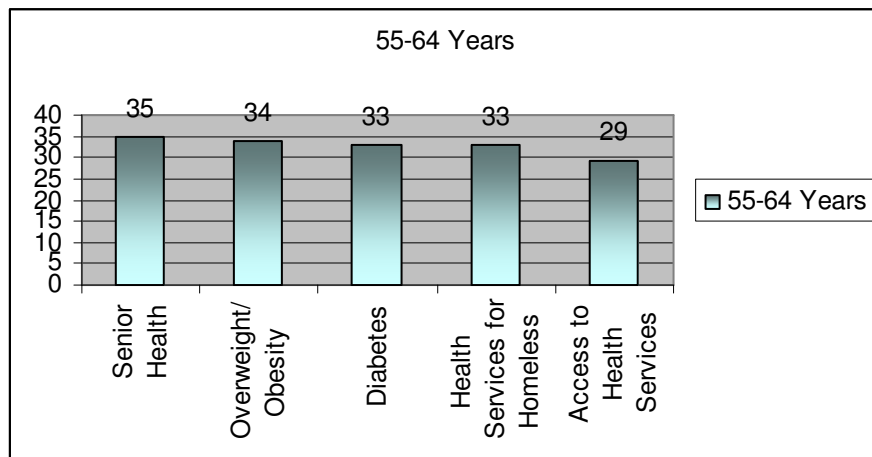
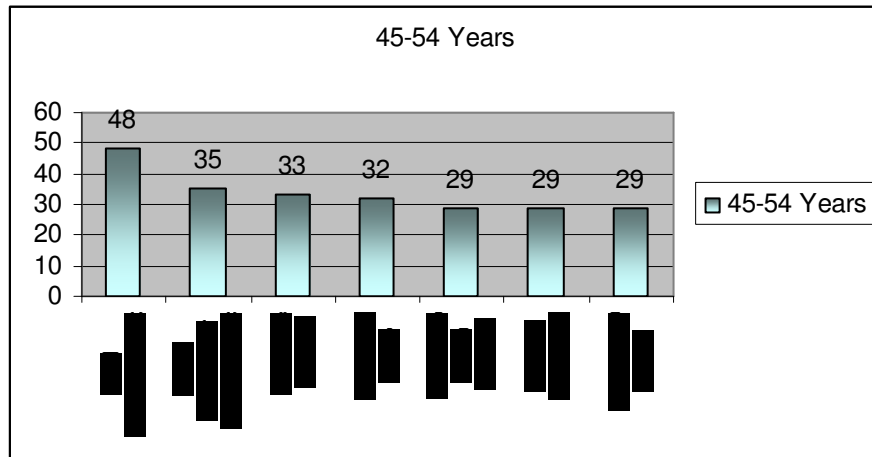


Top Three Factors That Have the Greatest Impact on Community Health in the City of Bethlehem

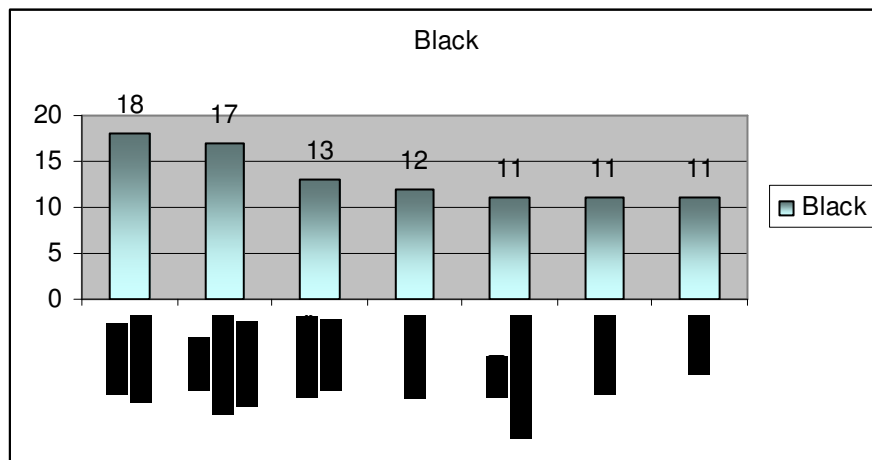
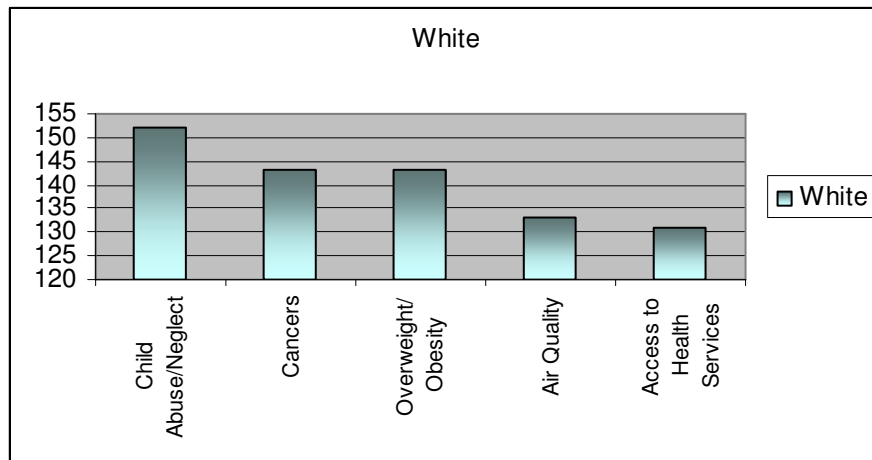


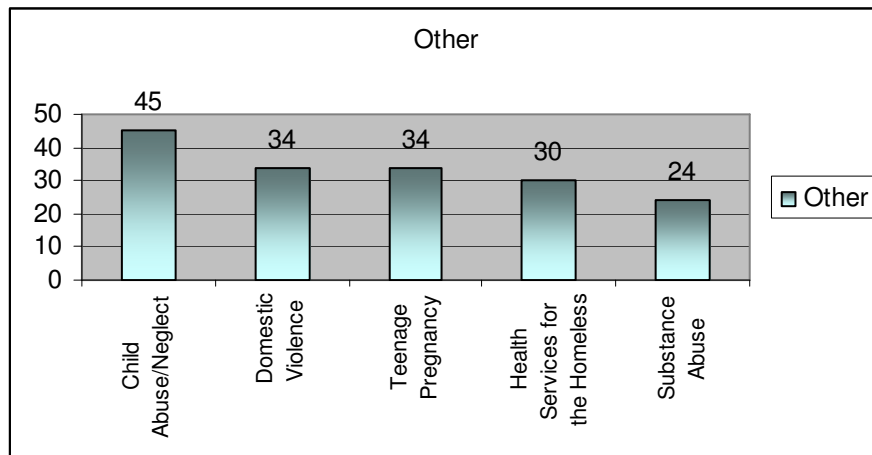
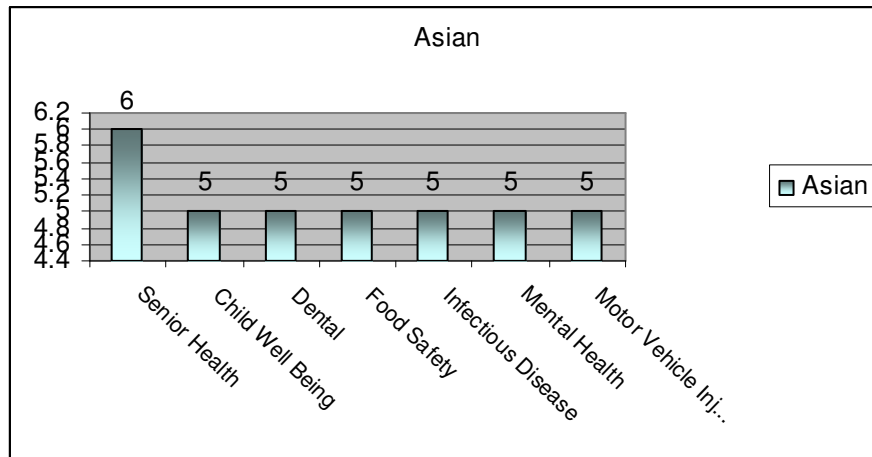
Top Five Health Issues By Age



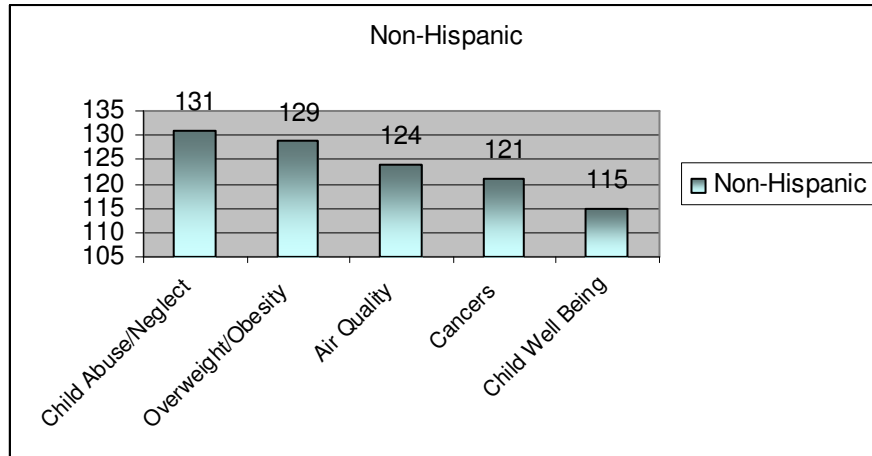
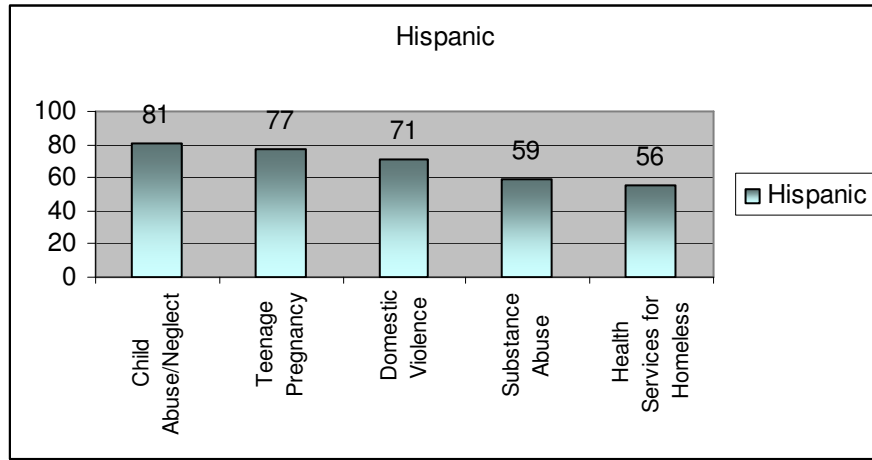


Top Five Issues By Race

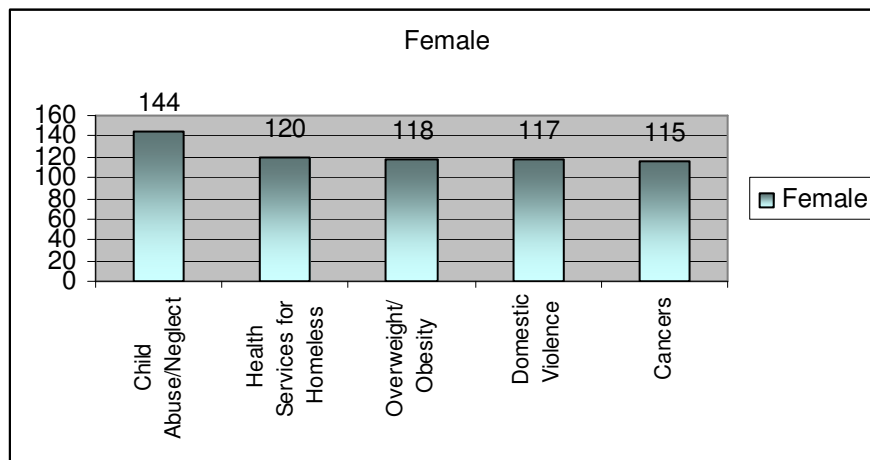
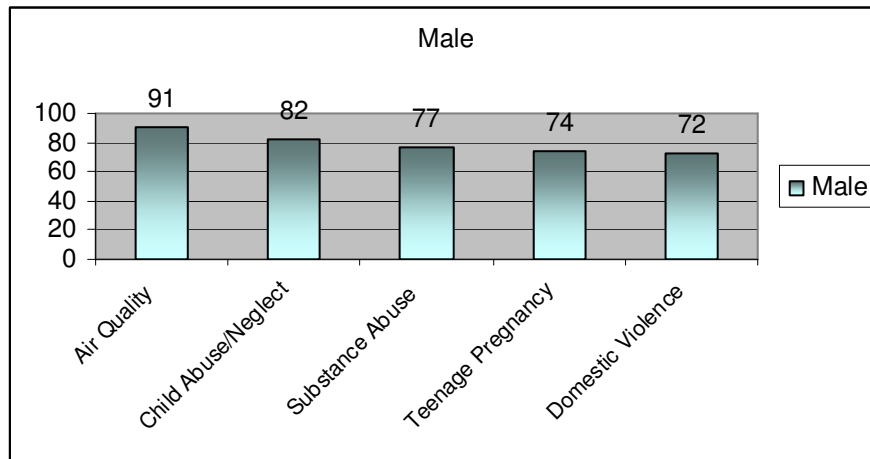




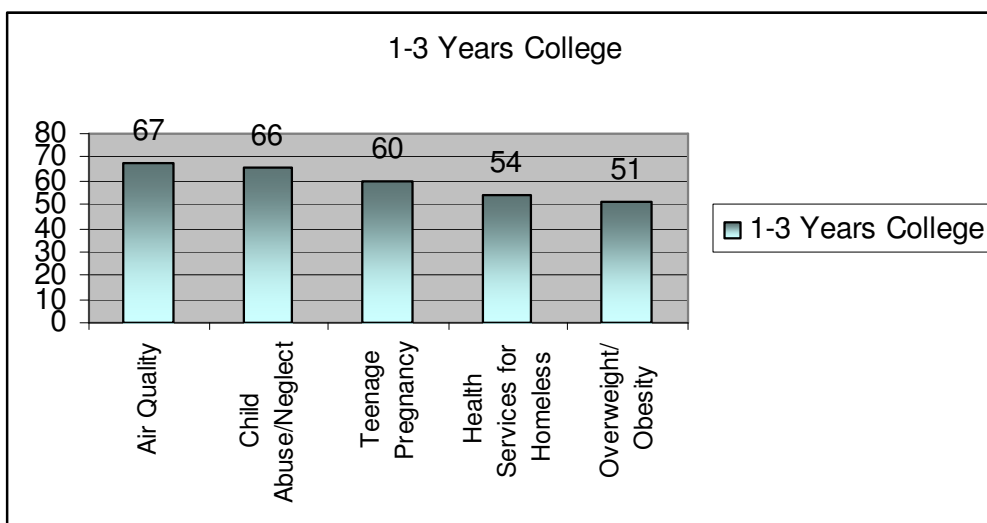
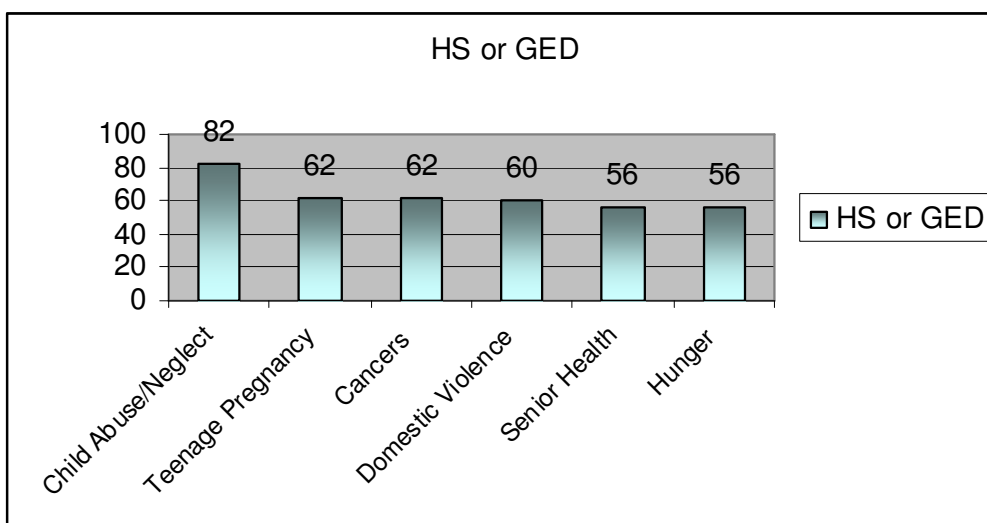
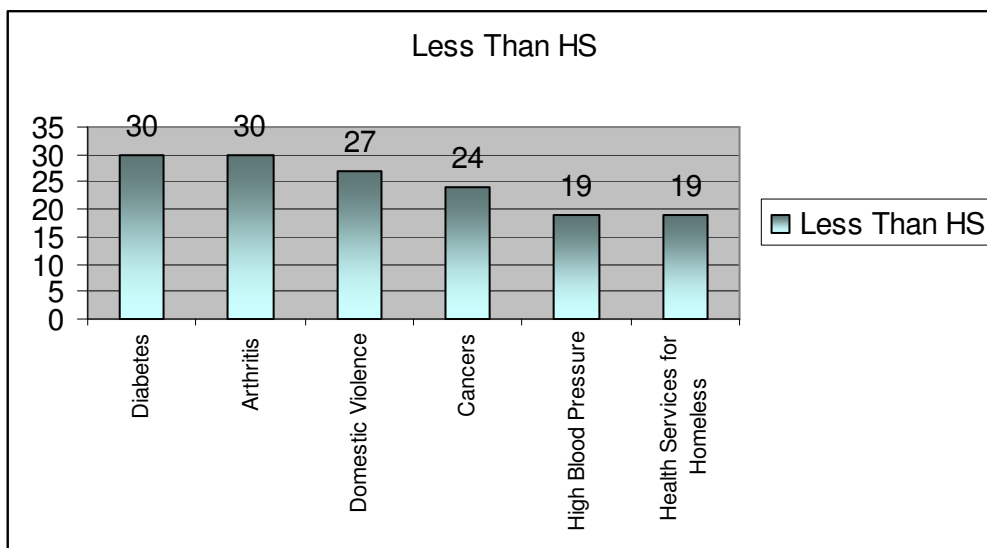
Top Five Issues By Ethnicity

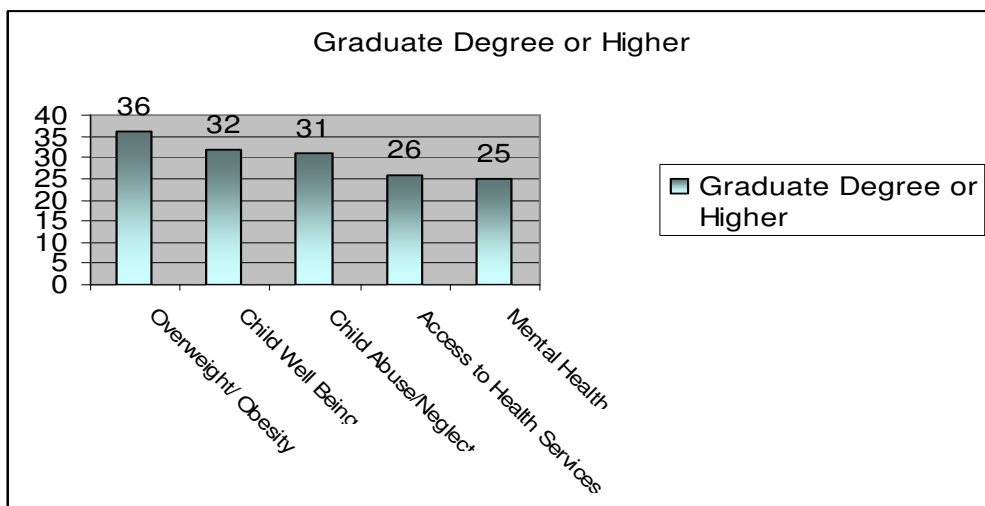
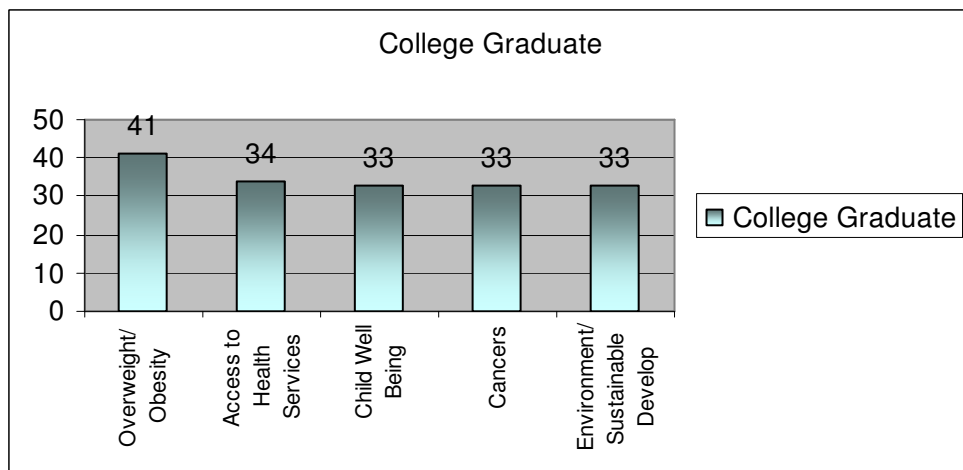


Top Five Issues By Gender



Top Five Issues By Education





Top Five Issues By Income Level

